

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Vol. 21, No. 35

TORONTO 2, CANADA

December 28th, 1929

1930 comes in like a
LION!



**RAMON
NOVARRO**
in
**DEVIL MAY
CARE**

The \$2 Astor
Theatre Hit



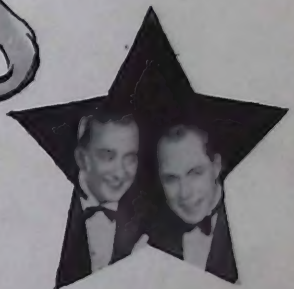
**DUNCAN
SISTERS** in
**IT'S A GREAT
LIFE**



**CHARLES KING
BESSIE LOVE** in
**CHASING
RAINBOWS**



WILLIAM HAINES
in **NAVY BLUES**

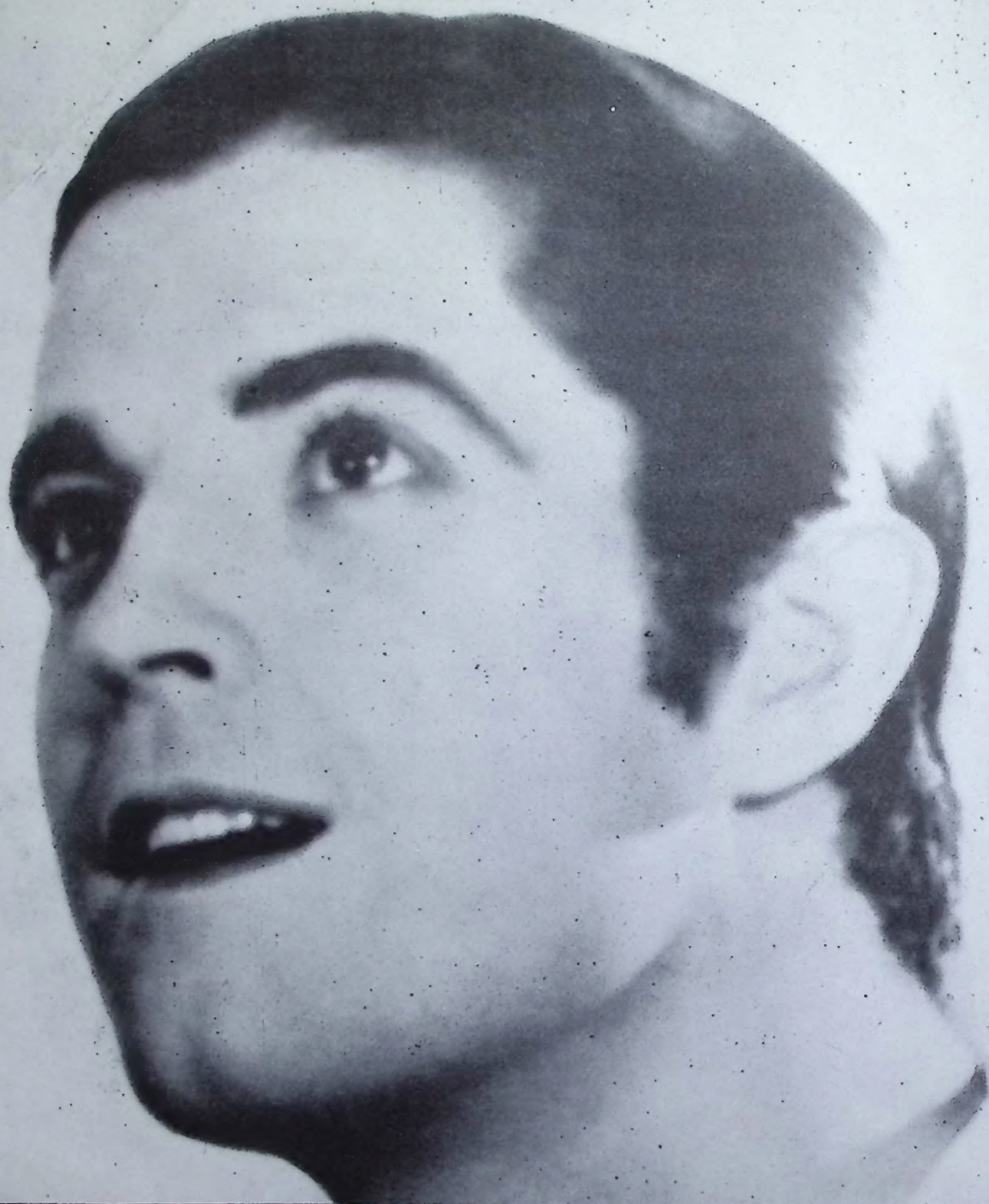


VAN & SCHENCK
in
**THEY LEARNED
ABOUT WOMEN**

HAPPY METRO-GOLDWYN-MAYER NEW YEAR!

PUBLISHED BY
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DOROTHY JORDAN
directed by
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THE STANDARD OF COMPARISON

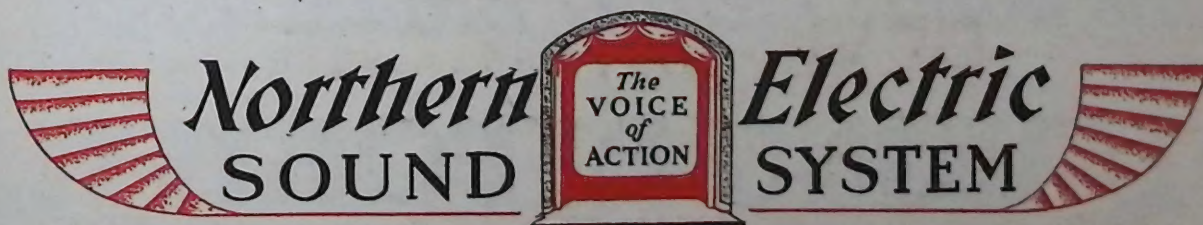


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"McNamee has shown that
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take a new medium of expression
and through it transmit himself
— to give out vividly a sense of
movement and feeling. Of such
is the kingdom of art."

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Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established in 1915 for
Exhibitors

Subscription: \$5.00 yearly

Telephone: Trinity 1481

Cable: Ontocanada

Published by Canadian
Moving Picture Digest
Company, Limited

259 Spadina Ave. - Toronto

London Office

80-82 Wardor St., W 1

RAY LEWIS

Editor and Managing Director

Vol. 21, No. 35

TORONTO 2, CANADA

December 28th, 1929

Forward! March!



IF WISHES were horses, beggars would ride;" this adage wore itself out in the last twenty years, when the auto was substituted for the horse. Now we substitute for the auto, the aeroplane; for this age is learning how to navigate through clouds, using the stars as a compass.

"If wishes were aeroplanes, beggars would fly," will now have to be the manner of expressing the sentiment which this phrase contains.

A Happy New Year, a year full of doing, of successful accomplishments, of health, of the satisfaction of achievements, of peace, of friendships, of service, and of spiritual growth. This is our wish to you; and we trust that this wish will not go begging, but mounted like "Lindy," it will ride over all clouds of gloom, over Mountains of Opposition, returning like the Argosy, to those for whom it is meant, heavily laden with wishes which have come true.

The past year must be one of satisfaction to showmen, regardless of the fact that it stirred them up, "to their very inners."

You remember in "Pilgrim's Progress" one of the dead lands through which our pilgrim had to pass was "the Slough of Despond." Previous to the Talking Upheaval, this Industry was certainly in "The Slough of Despond," a rut more deadly than inertia.

Now, we have been revived, and revitalized. The business of Entertainment has returned to where it normally belongs, as far as our Industry is concerned, and that is to the producers of Motion Pictures.

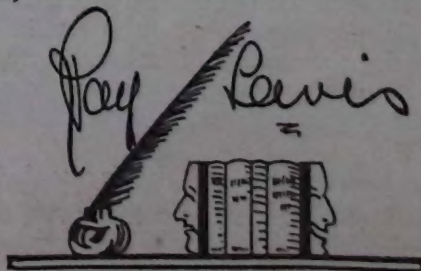
The "grab bag" and "phony" presents era are relegated to the "has beens" of Motion Pictures; and today theatreowners are depending upon the quality of their pictures for patronage.

Today, we meet comedians who are sincerely and originally funny. They do amusing things with an art of originality which is unmistakable. The "gag and stunt director" is not the comedian, he simply lets the "funny man" be as funny as God made him; and having watched a few recent comedians, we must conclude that even God Laughs at the antics of these funny men.

Where we now have drama, the players are portraying a bit of themselves, not a stereotyped motion picture characterization, but a character within a character. We only glimpsed this in a few of our greatest screen stars during the silent Era, but being able to Sound an expression appears to have released unsounded depths of ability; and also to have introduced us to a new style of screen star, one with a much more expressive and piquant face, one with style, even though the profile is not so flawless.

The lack of physical perfection of line is an asset also, for it eliminates the needless repetition of close-ups, which were a pest; and which catered not to action and speed, the interest of a picture, but to the vanity of individual players.

Altogether, we have much for which to give thanks as we sound the Forward! March! into 1930.



RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

THE CANADIAN POLICE BULLETIN, official organ of the Chief Constables' Association of Canada, states, "Everyone is anxious for the future of the race, is anxious about its upbringing in the rightful paths of good citizenship and that work begins at home."

Police have an opportunity unequalled by any other branch of investigation to study the causes which precipitate child delinquency; and the sum total of their experiences, as represented in the various papers presented at their annual convention this year, revealed that the "home" influence certainly was the predominant factor for good and evil in the lives of our young.

Which brings to mind our Censorship problem; and if the home is not the most advisable and most suitable board of censors which our Industry could have, parents exercising their rights and judgment on the matter of determining what their children should and should not see in Motion Pictures. At present if you were a child in Ontario you had an opportunity to see "The Cock-Eyed World," but in Manitoba, no children were allowed. This looks as if we are fast approaching the era of National or Dominion Censorship.

THE TOWN-PLANNING program which will be presented at the coming election, will turn Toronto into a Metropolis; and it is about time.

Mayor McBride who is heading for the "Roosevelt class," when that great President of the U.S. was among the living, which means loud on progress and negative on bunk, is in the running for re-election; and by the "pulse of the electors," one can state that Mayor McBride will have almost an unanimous re-election, so overwhelming will be his majority.

The Town-Planning program is McBride's giant-baby. He it is who proposed that Toronto should adopt this nursling of Gargantuan proportions, so that Toronto might evolve out of her village complex and adopt the flair and the airs of a real live city, worthy of its citizens; and reflecting the wealth, the progressive and big-town ideas which its citizens possess.

MAYOR McBRIDE'S re-election means that Toronto will spread itself all over the place, eliminating tumbledown shacks, narrow streets, opening up boulevards and highways, making traffic quit looping-the-loop at certain sections; and encouraging the erection of buildings architecturally beautiful, and of a proportion which will represent the activities, the business spirit of a great city, in a great dominion.

The pioneers who are planning to build a theatre, or theatres for such a city are again demonstrating their showmanship vision.

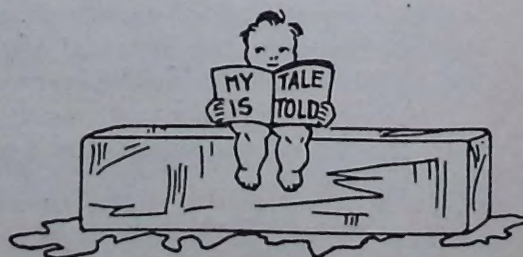
The site secured for the new Nathanson-Holt-Fox-Warner theatre, seating five thousand is right in line for the new extensions; and already the purchase of the property would realize a reward in line of profits, which would be worth taking, providing the theatre proposition was not a bigger and more profitable deal.

THE NEW Famous house which will also seat five thousand, according to earlier reports, is to have a site rivalling the new theatre chain. Here will be real competition; and the best pictures must win. Nor is this competition to be restricted to Toronto. Montreal, Winnipeg and other centres will be in line, just as soon as such theatres become expedient.

Competition is sometimes deemed irksome, since it makes one keep thinking, and evolving plans to retain trade, or improve trade. Ruts are comfortable states for those who are disinclined to be disturbed. We are going to find plenty of disturbances to lift us out of our ruts, and like some of the opposition which we have here on the Town-Planning idea, we are going to hear plenty of "squawks" in regard to the big theatre ideas, but we are going to have them just the same. All that need worry us is that the two chains keep competitive and do not amalgamate, that is, one become so powerful that it absorbs the other. This might be fine work for the absorbing chain, but not so interesting for competition.

Meanwhile, The Toronto Star Weekly devoted much space by way of headlining and commenting on the entrance of Sir Herbert Holt into the new theatre deal.

THE UPTOWN THEATRE, Toronto, had a line-up for "Disraeli," Warner Bros. distinctive picture, with George Arliss, which would have gladdened the heart of any theatre manager. Viewing the crowds, the prevailing opinion around town was that the picture would be held over for another week, but this did not materialize; and now those who did not see "Disraeli" are questioning anyone they think should know, when "Disraeli" is to be shown in Toronto and where?



Observations



By The Editor

"Let he who observes, observe that he too is being observed in his observations; and therefor let him make his remarks as he observes the subject of them, nor add a tittle, nor a jot to that which passeth between the observer and the observed. So by these rules may all men know the observer is observant."

CLARK'S HARBOR, Nova Scotia, has a new theatre called, "The Vimy." M. A. Nickerson is the owner, and the building was erected by Adams and Lewis, of Yarmouth South.

The building is one hundred feet long, by forty-five in width, and is of two stories, the lower portion being used for the theatre.

The theatre is on the site of a property which was destroyed by fire last year, and which was then owned by Cornelius Cohen. The new theatre has a seating capacity of six hundred. F. T. Nickerson, Jr., who has been managing "The Vimy" Theatre in the Oddfellow's building, has taken a long-term lease on the new theatre.

* * * *

JANUARY 17th is the date for the hearing of the Famous Players suit against N. L. Nathanson, the former Managing Director. The action evolved out of a dispute in connection with the purchase of certain properties in Montreal.

Mr. Nathanson contends that the Famous was aware of all the particulars in connection with the purchase and disposition of the property; and that the company made no claim on this property until he had severed his connection with the company. The titles to the property are at present in the name of the Montreal Trust Company, and this company is holding the property in trust until the court decides the issue. Recent judgment on the matter permits the Montreal Trust Company to rent the buildings involved for terms of not more than one year dating from May 1st, 1930.

* * * *

IT IS not unusual for members of a company to operate theatres, or purchase theatre property which is owned by these members, as individuals. The Regent Theatre in Toronto is said to be Mr. Nathanson's personal property, while the Globe Theatre is said to be personally owned by Arthur Cohen, the present Managing Director of Famous Players Canadian. An interview with Mr. Nathanson on the question of the purchase of this property disclosed these points of interests, that Famous Players had not been interested in the purchase of the property involved, but that N. L. had put through the deal, intending to hold and develop same for himself, not by way of a theatre site, but as a property investment. Mr. Nathanson further explained that in the event the Famous Players were later moved to consider this property from a theatre angle, his thought at that time was that he might turn the property over to Famous.

* * * *

ONE of the finest pictures we have had in Toronto; and taking its place among the best, is being shown at The Uptown, Toronto; Nelson Shea, Manager.

"Flight" is the title of this Columbia box-office winner which opened Saturday, December 28th. The cast has Ralph Graves and Lila Lee. It is "all wool and a yard wide," and has quality written all over it.

A thriller with such human touches, such possible and probable situations, such excellent acting and direction that Columbia gets permission to "Step right up to the head of the class." "Flight" is the title and don't let anyone talk you out of it, exhibitors, it is just what the doctor ordered for you; and in our next we will expound some more on the angles which make it a real, live picture.

* * * *

LOEW'S THEATRE, Jules Bernstein, Manager, did a packed business with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's synchronized, but silent picture, Greta Garbo in "The Kiss." In fact business was so good that we asked "Bernie" whether he could not hang a few more patrons on the draperies. A silent picture has to be more than good today to hold the interest. It is strange how inventions change our taste and interest, but "The Kiss" happened to be full of power; and we forgave its silence, although unconsciously we skipped reading the titles, getting our story from the action of the picture. To think that a little kiss would cause so much trouble. Oh well, one must take into consideration that kissing Greta Garbo is not quite like kissing anybody else. Greta looks as if "a kiss" from her might start anything. It did, one man lost his life and another nearly lost his also, Greta too, had to stand trial for murder, but Conrad Nagel, who was always in love with Greta, and who happened to have the necessary legal training, degree to defend her, convinced the jury that Greta was innocent; and since the man who died happened to have been Greta's husband, which left Greta a widow, we, who make up the audience left with the impression that Greta would not be a widow long. The story is an original one by George M. Saville. Jacques Feyder directed and retained that French atmosphere in which such a story could be born. Greta was as usual most interesting, save with the exception of a scene, after the murder, when Greta did something to her hair which turned Greta into an entirely different personality. One Swedish lady in the audience called out, "Now that is how Greta looked when I saw her in Stockholm," which made me think that Hollywood had been very good to Greta.

* * * *

TALKING of audiences giving voice to their opinions, The Digest heard a Tivoli Theatre patron say to a friend with him when the trailer on Warner Bros. picture, "The Gold Diggers of Broadway" was shown, "That is a great picture, I have seen it in Toledo, Chicago, all over the U.S. and now I am going to see it in Toronto." Which nearly made your editor ask Tom Daley to give the man a pass, seeing that he had already paid his admission to this show enough times to get something for nothing.

Universal Makes Haines In "Signal Tower" New Film

Universal has purchased the dialogue rights to "The Signal Tower" and will remake it as a talker, according to an announcement by Carl Laemmle, President of Universal.

"The Signal Tower" was released in its silent form in 1924 with Virginia Valli as the star. It was one of the finest box office pictures ever made by the company.

The talking and sound version will be new in every respect.

ATTENTION THEATRE OWNERS

A live wire Operator, or Theatre Manager with 21 years experience, and with a thorough knowledge of Sound equipment, wishes to work in Toronto

BOX 3—DIGEST

AT LIBERTY

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J. W. YOKOM,
c/o Regent Theatre, Peterboro, Ont.

WANTED

Theatre Manager for town of 6,000. State experience and salary required. Apply

BOX 9 — DIGEST

William Haines, in his new talking picture "Fresh From College," is surrounded with some of the greatest character actors of screen and stage. Five men nationally known for their roles in stage and film hits are playing his business associates in this photoplay which presents the star as a college graduate facing his first year of business life.

Carleton Macy, who created the chief of police in "Seven Keys to Baldpate" and a noted New York stage actor, plays the bank president in the picture, and Wilbur Mack, celebrated vaudeville headliner, the head of the brokerage office where he gets a job. Lou Paine, husband of Mrs. Leslie Carter, and well-known for recent screen character roles, Herbert Prior, who played the professor in "The Duke Steps Out," and Henry Barrows, pioneer Vitagraph character actor, play other brokers in the Wall Street scenes in the picture.

William V. Mong, noted for his film characterizations plays the star's father in the new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer picture.

Leila Hyams is heroine of the new play, which Sam Wood is directing. Phyllis Crane, William Janney, Junior Coghlan, Francis X. Bushman, Jr., Polly Moran, Clara Blandick and others of note are in the cast.

New M-G-M Titles

Two new titles have been announced by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer for forthcoming productions. "They Learned About Women" will supplant "Playing the Field" as the title of the musical farce-comedy with a baseball background in which Van & Schenck make their debut in a full-length sound film under Sam Wood's direction.

"Chasing Rainbows" takes the place of "Happy Days" as the title of the new Charles King-Bessie Love picture, a story of a travelling troupe with a musical setting, directed by Charles Riesner, whose last production was "The Hollywood Revue."

Baxter Repeats "Cisco Kid" Role

The "Cisco Kid" is coming back to the talking screen via Fox Movietone, portrayed by Warner Baxter who enacted the character in "In Old Arizona." Alfred Santell has been assigned to direct, and Tom Barry, who wrote the story for John McCormack's first talking picture, will write the dialog. Santell's last picture was "Romance of Rio Grande." Work on the production will begin as soon as Baxter completes his dual characterization in "Such Men Are Dangerous."

THEATRE WANTED

Will buy or lease theatre in Toronto or vicinity. Sound equipment preferred.

BOX 11—DIGEST

A Happy New Year

May we take this opportunity of thanking you, the Exhibitors of Canada, for the co-operation and business you have given us during the past year.

We appreciate the fact that we have been able to serve you, and we again place ourselves at your service for the coming year.

May 1930 be a Happy and a Prosperous Year for you is our sincere wish.

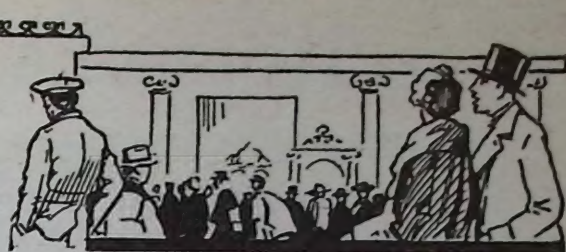
The Coleman Electric Co.

"Courtesy with Service." Canada's Leading Theatre Supply House

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Show Business



Joe Franklin, manager of B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, Ontario, has been appointed civic publicity supervisor by the municipal government for 1930 in recognition of his services in boosting the Canadian Capital as a touring centre during the past four years. One of Franklin's schemes is the erection of a stone arch at the entrance to the city, to serve also as a beacon for air pilots.

Donat Paquin, proprietor of the three theatres in Hull, Quebec, has decided to convert the Capitol Theatre into a store and apartment building. The Capitol was erected only three years ago but it has been dark for months. The Laurier Theatre, Hull, opened with Western Electric equipment before Christmas while the Eden Theatre is still a silent house.

All of the leading theatres of Ottawa, Ontario, have arranged "whoopie shows" for New Year's Eve, with the exception of the Centre Theatre. The attraction at the Regent Theatre for the one performance is "Cock Eyed World," which will be brought back for its regular engagement some weeks later at the Regent. The admission price for the New Year's Eve presentation is 75 cents.

Walter Davis, manager of the Capitol Theatre, Winnipeg, arranged a Christmas Eve party for vaudeville artists appearing at the Capitol Christmas week, at the Marlborough Hotel. While this is a common custom the world over, because vaudeville artists more often than not are thousands of miles away from their homes and loved ones, the manager of the RKO Capitol had some uncommon ideas about such things. The result was a big surprise with a merry party.

Alterations to the Capitol Theatre, Vancouver, B.C., not being completed, Norman Code, of Winnipeg, supervisor of alterations for Famous Players Canadian Corporation Ltd., in the West, will be detained there until after Christmas. Work had to be rushed for the schedule opening of the home of Capitol entertainment in Vancouver Christmas Eve. Mr. Code will pay brief visits to Calgary, Regina and Brandon before returning to Winnipeg.

As long as there is a Province of Quebec, there is no possibility of Federal system of moving picture censorship in Canada, it has been intimated in official circles of the Dominion Government. Following a general conference of representatives of Provincial censor boards at Toronto a few weeks ago for the purpose of discussing standardized censorship policies and standards, there has been a rumor that centralized film censorship was in the offing in Canada.

Denial has been made at Ottawa that the Canadian Government desires to take film censorship out of the hands of the Provinces, particularly with the Quebec board holding somewhat different views on censorship standards than the other reviewers because of the French Canadian and religious influences in effect in Quebec. The film exchanges want nothing better than Federal

censorship which, in one decision, would show whether a picture could be exhibited across the whole Dominion or not — but the matter is likely to remain within the jurisdiction of the respective Provinces for ages to come.

The Capitol Theatre, Vancouver, B.C., was closed for three weeks for the purpose of making it an echo-proof house, this Famous Players' key theatre re-opening Christmas Day with "Three Live Ghosts." Announcement was made by Manager J. Lloyd Dearth that an expenditure of \$100,000 had been made to insure sound-proof structural qualities—except for the audible screen.

The walls were covered with celotex, thick carpets were laid throughout, new plush seats are now found to the last row in the balcony and glass partitions surround the rear of the orchestra floor. Chesterfield lounges have been established in the loge boxes and other luxurious furnishings, including a huge crystal chandelier from the centre of the auditorium ceiling, have been installed. Although devoted to a sound picture policy, the orchestra has been augmented for overtures and stage presentations.

Miss Helen Channing, formerly of New York, has been appointed secretary of the Film Board of Trade at Montreal by Col. John A. Cooper, President of the Motion Picture Distributors and Exhibitors of Canada, Toronto. Miss Channing has publicly expressed a desire to co-operate with women's organizations in Montreal in motion picture improvement.

The Amateur Cinema Club of Montreal has been organized at Montreal for the purpose of encouraging scenario writing and the producing of amateur photoplay theatricals. The President of the club is Dent Harrison, and the Secretary is Victor Hobbes, 104 Drummond Building, Montreal. Similar clubs have been organized in other cities of Canada and a Little Theatre movement in photoplay work has been launched.

With a background of 20 years experience in the show business, A. G. Ritchie, who is better known by his many acquaintances in Canada simply as "Al," has become manager of the Strand and Capitol Theatres in Brandon, Man., relieving C. L. Ferguson, who has been transferred to British Columbia.

Brandon will welcome the news that with Mr. Ritchie comes the "talkies." Alterations at the Strand are being rushed and it is anticipated that everything will be in readiness for the first all-talking program New Year's Eve.

Mr. Ritchie made his entree in the show business by way of the theatre some 20 years ago, as manager of the St. Denis Theatre in Montreal. Here he was afforded a golden opportunity to acquaint himself with practically every form of amusement from vaudeville to grand opera.

A few years ago he was drafted into the distributing branch of the industry, and four years ago he became manager of the Paramount exchange. Here he made a reputation for himself, his capacity for work and his ability in disposing of his product attracting wide attention.

Parliament Theatre, Toronto, Opened Friday, Dec. 20th

Round About the Studios



Clarence Brown, directing Greta Garbo, in "Anna Christie," her first Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer talking picture.

Warner Bros. will open two new first run houses in New York City in the near future — Warner Bros. Hollywood Theatre at Broadway and 52nd Street and the Beacop Theatre at Broadway and 75th Street.

The combination responsible for what many critics believe is the best talking picture yet produced, "The Last of Mrs. Cheyney," has been mustered together again for "The High Road," Broadway comedy smash of last season.

Louise Fazenda and Lucien Littlefield have been signed for featured roles in "High Society Blues," the next Janet Gaynor-Charles Farrel picture, which will be directed by David Butler. The production is an adaptation of a Saturday Evening Post story by Dana Burnet and will be made as a musical romance with music by Hanley and McCarthy.

That sprightly comedy of youth and life, "Tommy," which held the Broadway boards for close to a year under the management of George Tyler, has been acquired by RKO Productions as a potential vehicle for Arthur Lake, now playing the juvenile lead in "Dance Hall" at the Globe. Howard Lindsey and Bert Robinson are the authors.

Marion Shilling has been signed by Tiffany to play the leading role of Katusha in their musical version of "Resurrection," which is now being filmed under the direction of Phil Goldstone. Miss Shilling played the lead in "Lord Byron of Broadway" and the ingenue lead in "Wise Girls."

The first Vitaphone pictures to reach the public from Warner Bros. in 1930 will be Dolores Costello in "Second Choice" and John Barrymore in "General Crack." These have both been listed for pre-release in January, according to an announcement made by Sam E. Morris, Vice-President.

After she has completed both versions of "Anna Christie" Greta Garbo will be starred in "Romance," dialogue version of Doris Keane's noted stage vehicle, which Clarence Brown will direct.

More than 10,000,000 candlepower was used in lighting the technicolor scenes in "Hit the Deck," Radio Pictures' lavish musical comedy. Never before had such an array of giant lights been used for a motion picture scene at the RKO studios. The effect of this electrical display is one of the outstanding features of the picture. Jack Oakie and Polly Walker are co-featured in this nautical romance.

A private screening of George Arliss in "Disraeli" was given by Warner Bros. in London last week for the British Parliament. Members of the House of Lords and the House of Commons attended the special performance at the Piccadilly Theatre at which Mr. Arliss himself was guest of honor. Arthur Clavering, head of Warner Bros. London offices who arranged the screening, reports that it was received with great enthusiasm, the audience bursting into spontaneous applause several times during the screening.

Following his arrival in New York, after a brief trip to Hollywood, Maurice Chevalier, French musical comedy favorite, started preparations for his next starring vehicle, "The Big Pond," to be produced at the Paramount Long Island studio.

Thomas Jackson, who played the role of the detective in the stage play, "Broadway," and Ned Sparks have been added to the cast of "Yonder Grow the Daisies," which already included Robert Ames, Lila Lee and Montague Love. Alfred E. Werker will direct.

Noah Beery and H. B. Warner are the latest players to sign long term contracts with Warner Bros. to appear in Vitaphone productions.

Dorothy Sebastian, who scored a sensation opposite Buster Keaton in "Spite Marriage," will play with him again in his first talking picture, "On the Set," which Edward Sedgwick is directing at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer studios.

Frank Leslie, comedian of several "Greenwich Village Follies" and Earl Carroll "Vanities" shows, has been signed by Universal for "The King of Jazz Revue" starring Paul Whiteman. He will leave for the Coast this week.



Barbara Stanwyck and Sam Hardy in a scene from "Mexicali Rose," an all-talking Columbia feature.

PATHE COMEDIES ARE USED IN ALL LEADING FIRST-RUN HOUSES

Since the advent of the "talkies," comedies have assumed a most important place on all programs. Stand in the lobby of any theatre as the crowd files out and listen to the remarks of the people. If the comedy was a good one, you will find that as many people will comment on it as comment on the feature that was shown. If you haven't already made this test, do so to-night and see if the results do not bear out this statement. Many of the largest and most important first-run houses in Canada and the United States now feature their comedy in electric

lights along with the feature picture. But they make sure that the comedies are good--most of them insist on having PATHE COMEDIES. This is because PATHE COMEDIES are uniformly good. Made by men who know how to produce good comedies and with stars whose names are box office assets.

PATHE COMEDIES are made with as much care and attention to details as the most elaborate feature picture. Prominent stage comedians are in the casts and they are provided with stories that are really funny. Competent directors are in charge of every subject made. No wonder then that PATHE COM-

EDIES are consistently good comedies--no wonder that the best type of theatres on the continent show them regularly. And there are enough of them for an uninterrupted supply--8 Geo. LeMaire Comedies, 8 Variety Comedies, 6 Manhattan

Ask the Exhibitor Who Shows Pathe Comedies

Comedies, 6 Checker Comedies, 6 Melody Comedies, 6 Folly Comedies, 6 Buck and Bubbles Comedies and 6 Golden Rooster Comedies. ALL PATHE COMEDIES ARE ALL MUSIC, ALL SOUND, ALL DIALOGUE.

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